

C O P Y

By W.T. Studdert

PACIFIC AMERICAN FISHERIES

South Bellingham, Washington

King Cove, 8/17/'23.

My dear Rich:

We returned yesterday from Cold Bay. Seven streams that have lakes at their heads empty into the lagoon; another has its outlet on the north-east beach of the bay, but wind prevented us from landing on that shore.

The lakes vary in size from one mile around to five. Two of the streams drain two lakes, each. The shores of all the lakes are largely of gravel formation, and adaptable to spawning.

The condition of all of the streams, with the possible exception of one, is very bad. In some cases the sliding of the banks, and caving in of boulders, have made them virtually impossible of ascent for salmon. Two large lakes were entirely closed to fish by the spreading of their outlets over too wide an area; the outlet of another was rendered impassable by a barrier of ooze, composed of what I thought decayed vegetable matter, held by a dense growth of reeds for some distance on each side of where the stream left the lake.

We had shovels and a pick along and were able to do some effective work; but to make the spawning area that is available accessible would require three men at work for at least a month or six weeks. It is my opinion that the Cold Bay section can be developed into the most productive area in this district.

You will feel gratified to know that salmon continued to ascend the small stream we opened up on the beach at even a more rapid rate than twenty per five minutes. We, of course, opened it up in much better shape with the tools we had taken with us. I took some pictures of the fish ascending, collected at its mouth, etc.

Fish could not have gotten up that creek in its condition when we first came upon it except at a short interval during extreme high tides. If you recall, it was approximately high water on an ordinary tide when we were there.

In following the stream to the lake I saw upwards of two hundred fish, which would represent the tail end of the procession that had passed up on the previous tide; it being dead low water when I left the beach. A flat extends offshore from that point for half a mile or more.

On the first day when Herrold and I followed the stream to the lake we didn't see a single salmon; there were from twelve to twenty fish seen in the lake.

Upon reaching the lake on the last trip we found it literally filled with fish: I would not attempt an estimate of the number, but one could see schools of salmon wherever he looked. That lake is connected to a larger

one, having about four miles or more of shoreline, by a small creek that we found blocked. We opened it up so that the fish could pass through.

I saw considerable salmon all over the lagoon; and will send you sketches and data in detail later. This note is hastily written to catch the Catherine which sails shortly.

I have received in the last mail three or four bales of blanks labelled "Monthly Report of Vessels." Not having been forewarned regarding these I have no data and can only approximate the information called for. Upon close scrutiny I find that such great oversights have actually occurred as: Amount of lubricating oil used while engine was in reverse; amount of fuel burned in heaving up anchor, also revolutions gotten out of winch per gallon; amount of lubricating oil used to oil steering wheel in pilot house; frequency of firing cook stove, capacity of coal shovel, number of B. T. Units per average shovel full; and hours stove burned in forecabin while crew slept, with radiation per hour gotten out of smoke stack.

Try to remember to send me a set of the pictures you took during the summer; I shall do likewise by you.

Sincerely,

Bill.

P. S. In my haste I all but forgot to tell you there is a lake at the head of Mortenson's Lagoon that has a shore line of from ten to twelve miles with a good portion of it suitable gravel.

Dimitrie's Lagoon has no lake at its head but a stream that I imagine is similar to that in Svenson's Lagoon. Easterly weather forced us off the beach before we could investigate the place.

I believe both places have been ruthlessly fished and in my mind some special work ought to be done in the Cold Bay section next year. I shall send you some ideas for handling it that I have in mind.

Bill.